

REMARKS

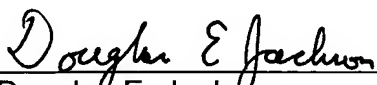
By this Amendment, the claims have been rewritten to reduce the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in better conformance with US practice.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Food cutting apparatus comprising a main body ~~(1)~~ provided with drive means ~~(2)~~ connected, by suitable transmission components ~~(3, 4, 5, 6)~~, to a rotating tool ~~(9)~~ comprising a housing ~~(8)~~ of essentially cylindrical shape in front of a loading mouth ~~(12)~~ for the food ~~(27)~~ that is to be cut and provided with at least one main blade ~~(10)~~ that projects radially from the outer surface of the said housing ~~(8)~~ and with a cutting device ~~(14)~~ connected to the said main body ~~(1)~~ and inserted into the said housing ~~(8)~~ of the tool ~~(9)~~, the said device ~~(14)~~ being provided with cutting means ~~(22)~~ working with the said main blade ~~(10)~~ of the rotating tool ~~(9)~~ to give the cut food ~~(27)~~ any shape such as sticks, dice or other shapes, characterized in that the rotating tool ~~(9)~~ comprises a series of cutters ~~(25)~~ arranged in front of the main blade ~~(10)~~ and essentially in a direction that is perpendicular to the cylindrical housing ~~(8)~~ of the said tool ~~(9)~~, the said cutters ~~(25)~~ and the said main blade ~~(10)~~ working with the said series of blades ~~(22)~~ of the device ~~(14)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said device ~~(14)~~ comprises an opening ~~(26)~~ in front of the mouth ~~(12)~~ through which the food ~~(27)~~ to be cut is loaded, the said cutting means ~~(22)~~ being fixed to the said opening ~~(26)~~ and the said main blade ~~(10)~~ being capable of pushing the said food ~~(27)~~ against the said cutting means ~~(22)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said cutting device ~~(14)~~ is in a stationary position and comprises a series of blades ~~(22)~~ fixed to its outer surface, the said blades ~~(22)~~ being positioned in a direction that is essentially parallel to the axis of rotation ~~(R)~~ of the rotating tool ~~(9)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the said cutting device (14) comprises an essentially cylindrical upper body (15) inserted into the housing (8) of the said rotating tool (9) and fixed removably to a seat (19) provided in the main body (1) of the apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the said device (14) comprises a lower inclined sliding surface (16) for the food (27), having a discharge mouth (17) for the said food (27) at its end.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 4, characterized in that the said device (14) comprises a part (18) designed to clip onto a projecting edge (20) of the said stationary seat (19) provided in the main body (1) of the apparatus.